IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraphs appearing on page 9, line 14 to page 10, line 6, to read as follows:

FIG. 5A is an expanded view of the area indicated by dotted lines in FIGS. 1A - 1C, depicting a hinge of the present invention formed by cutting notches in the ~~guidewire~~ guide wire;

FIG. 5B is an expanded view of the area indicated by dotted lines in FIGS. 1A - 1C, depicting a hinge of the present invention formed by incorporating longitudinal slots in the ~~guidewire~~ guide wire;

FIG. 5C is an expanded view of the area indicated by dotted lines in FIGS. 1A - 1C, depicting a hinge of the present invention formed by incorporating axial slots in the ~~guidewire~~ guide wire;

FIG. 5D is an expanded view of the area indicated by dotted lines in FIGS. 1A - 1C, depicting a hinge of the present invention formed by incorporating holes in the ~~guidewire~~ guide wire; and

FIG. 5E is an expanded view of the area indicated by dotted lines in FIGS. 1A - 1C, depicting a hinge of the present invention formed by incorporating a spring in the ~~guidewire~~ guide wire.

Please amend the paragraphs appearing on page 13, line 10 to page 14, line 5, to read as follows:

The expandable cage assembly 34 may include a plurality of self-expanding struts 52, each having a proximal portion 54 and a distal portion 56. It should be appreciated that this is just one particular example of an expandable cage assembly which may be used in accordance with the present invention. The expandable cage assembly 34 may be relatively flexible at the distal end 48 and relatively stiff at the proximal end 50, thereby

facilitating its maneuverability in the body vessel 12 and its expansion when the delivery sheath 16 is retracted. It is contemplated that the invention may incorporate various forms of self-expanding struts known within the art. It is also contemplated that the plurality of self-expanding struts 52 may each include a ~~radioopaque~~ radiopaque marker (not shown), thereby enabling verification of the opening or closing of the expandable cage assembly 34. It is further contemplated that the struts 52 may be made of a ~~radioopaque~~ radiopaque material.

In one particular embodiment, the diameter of the distal end 48 of the expandable cage assembly 34 is less than the diameter of the proximal end 50 of the expandable cage assembly 34, the diameter in the unexpanded state increasing gradually along the length of the expandable cage assembly 34 from the distal end 48 to the proximal end 50. The expandable cage assembly 34 is typically one-and-one-half to three-and-one-half centimeters long and may be tubular-shaped, although it is contemplated that the invention may incorporate various sizes and shapes known within the art. The expandable cage assembly 34 may be comprised of a material, such as NITINOL, having advantageous superelasticity characteristics and which facilitates efficient formation of the expandable cage assembly 34. The expandable cage assembly 34 may be formed by heat treating or any other method known within the art. ~~Radioopaque~~ Radiopaque markers (not shown) may be comprised of platinum or gold bands or any other ~~radioopaque~~ radiopaque material.

Please amend the paragraph appearing on page 14, line 27 to page 15, line 6, to read as follows:

A hinge 38 provides additional flexibility and can reduce the effective length of the expandable cage assembly 34, thereby ensuring that proper apposition with the inside wall 24 of the body vessel 12 will be maintained even if the body vessel 12 has a sharp bend. Although the ~~guidewire~~ guide wire 21 is flexible, the expandable cage assembly 34 of a filtering device 18 without a hinge 38 may partially collapse due to lateral loading from the body vessel 12 wall 28 when it is deployed in a body vessel 12 having a sharp

bend. If the expandable cage assembly 34 partially collapses, apposition with the inside wall 24 of the body vessel 12 may be lost, thereby allowing embolic material 28 to bypass the filter material 36.

Please amend the paragraph appearing on page 16, line 22 to page 17, line 8, to read as follows:

In use, the system 10 may be positioned in the patient's vasculature utilizing any of a number of different methods known in the art. In a preferred method, the delivery sheath 16 is placed in the body vessel 12 by utilizing the ~~guidewire~~ guide wire 21, which is inserted into the patient's vasculature and manipulated by the physician to the treatment area 14. Once the distal end 30 of the delivery sheath 16 is located distal to the treatment area, the delivery sheath 16 is retracted, thereby allowing the expandable cage assembly 34 to expand. The expansion of the expandable cage assembly 34 is enhanced by the self-expanding struts 52 and ~~radioopaque~~ radiopaque markers enable verification of expanding or collapsing of the expandable cage assembly 34. After the expandable cage assembly 34 is deployed distal of the treatment area 14, the interventional procedure is performed with the filter material 36 capturing embolic material 28 dislodged during the procedure. After the interventional procedure is completed, the expandable cage assembly 34 is retracted into the delivery catheter 16 or another recovery sheath (not shown), thereby causing the expandable cage assembly 34 and filter material 36, containing the captured embolic material 28, to collapse. The system 10 is then withdrawn from the patient's body vessel 12.

Please amend the ABSTRACT to read as follows:

A filtering device for capturing and removing embolic debris from a body vessel and a system for insertion and removal of the filtering device to facilitate an interventional procedure in a stenosed or occluded region of a body vessel. The filtering device is adapted to be expandable in the body vessel, allowing blood to pass therethrough while maintaining apposition with the body vessel wall and capturing

embolic material released into the bloodstream during the interventional procedure, and to be collapsible to remove the captured embolic material from the body vessel. The filtering device includes a ~~guidewire~~ guide wire, an expandable cage assembly secured to the guide wire, filter material secured to the expandable cage assembly, and at least one hinge, the hinge allowing the expandable cage assembly to bend independent from the guide wire. The system, which includes a delivery sheath and filtering device, is adapted to retain the expandable cage assembly in a collapsed condition and deliver and deploy the filtering device at a location in the body vessel distal the treatment site.